

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Review and reconsideration of the subject application in view of the present amendment is respectfully requested.

By the present amendment, applicant amends claims 1-36. Claims 1-36 are currently pending in this application. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance.

There are two independent claims pending in this application, namely claims 1 and 21. Claims 1 and 21 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 (e) as being anticipated by Bartsch et al., (US 6459955 B1). Claims 1 and 21 have been amended to specify that the navigational control station 3 includes at least one loop 4, the loop transmits a magnetic field, and a current is sent through the loop to generate a varying magnetic field. The current amendments to claims 1 and 21 define the present invention over the prior art reference because of the inclusion of the navigational control station 3 with the loop 4 used for navigation. The prior art reference includes other means for navigation. For example, Bartsch generally has a boundary wire 2 for delimiting the area where the robot works (however independent claims are not restricted in this respect). Additionally, the present invention is specifically intended to direct the robot towards the docking station (navigational control station 3). The loop 4 is for maneuvering the machine to the docking station with great accuracy in order to be able to dock properly, e.g. for recharging the battery.

US 6459955 is directed to a cleaner robot for indoor operation. It neither has a boundary wire nor a navigational control station with a loop for directing the machine towards it. On the contrary, the details referred to by the examiner are light fixtures 116 in the ceiling 114. The present invention includes boundary wire 2 and loop 4 are electrically conducting wires in which current signals are sent that generates magnetic fields in the surrounding. The present invention

discloses boundary wires that are located in the ground or on the surface of the ground. By contrast, US 6459955 utilizes a camera 112 for navigation of the robot.

In light of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and notice to that effect is hereby requested. If it is determined that the application is not in a condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to initiate a telephone interview with the undersigned attorney to expedite prosecution of the present application.

If there are any additional fees resulting from this communication, please charge same to our Deposit Account No. 16-0820, our Order No. 37204.

Respectfully submitted,

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